



THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

March 4, 2026

**Re: House Bill 686 – Vehicle Laws – Eluding Police – Penalties (Zoey's Law)
Letter of Support – Prince George's County Council**

Dear Chair and Committee Members:

The Prince George's County Council is pleased to offer strong support for House Bill 686 – "Zoey's Law." This legislation takes an important step toward strengthening roadway safety and ensuring meaningful accountability for drivers who engage in dangerous and unlawful attempts to elude law enforcement.

In recent years, Prince George's County has experienced an increase in high-risk fleeing incidents, many of which place residents, pedestrians, and officers in significant danger. When an individual's decision to flee results in the tragic loss of life, the consequences must appropriately reflect the severity of the harm done. HB 686 achieves that by reclassifying fatal eluding as a felony offense and by establishing enhanced penalties that better align with the devastating impact these incidents have on families and communities.

This bill helps deter reckless behavior, strengthens enforcement tools for law enforcement agencies, and affirms Maryland's commitment to protecting the public. Importantly, HB 686 preserves existing provisions relating to bodily injury, pursuit during violent crimes, and lawful police signaling while focusing its penalty enhancements on the most severe and preventable outcomes.

For these reasons, Prince George's County respectfully urges a **favorable report** on House Bill 686. Thank you for your consideration.

Wayne K. Curry Administration Building – Upper Marlboro, Maryland 20772